

The existing safety standards for wireless technology need to be updated before all of us, but especially children, are routinely exposed to additional wireless devices.

Until more conclusive research is available, higher “temporary” standards need to be adopted.

Extensive use of wireless technology is new enough that no one has all of the answers. However, there is already enough research indicating possible health problems to justify health concerns at our current safety standards; and it is research that has been carried out and reviewed by our most highly respected scientists, from our most prestigious universities and organizations. Although the wireless industry and energy companies promoting smart meters would like us to believe otherwise, it is reasonable to have health concerns at current safety limits.

Three such studies are noted below. There are many others.

May 2011: The World Health Organization (WHO) identified cell phones as a class 2B possible carcinogen. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), a working group of 30 of the world’s top scientists, representing 14 countries, spent seven days studying the mechanics of wireless technology, reviewing all of the existing research, and examining all other relevant data.

The result: Cell phones were designated as a class 2B possible carcinogen.

[http://www.iarc.fr/en/media-centre/iarcnews/2011/Intr\\_Monog102.pdf](http://www.iarc.fr/en/media-centre/iarcnews/2011/Intr_Monog102.pdf)

May 2012: Yale School of Medicine Researchers determined that exposure to cell phones during pregnancy affects the brain development of offspring, potentially leading to hyperactivity. “Taylor said that further research is needed in humans to better understand the mechanisms behind these findings and to establish safe exposure limits during pregnancy. Nevertheless, he said, limiting exposure of the fetus seems warranted.”

<http://news.yale.edu/2012/03/15/cell-phone-use-pregnancy-may-cause-behavioral-disorders-offspring>

December 2010: A Danish study found a higher incidence of hyperactivity and behavior problems in children whose mothers used cell phones extensively during pregnancy. The behavior of the children will be evaluated again in a few years to see if the problem behaviors persist.

<http://www.webmd.com/baby/news/20101206/cell-phone-use-in-pregnancy-risks-for-child>

These, and other studies, suggest that a “cautionary” approach to exposing our entire population, especially young children, to even more wireless technology, especially wireless devices using pulsed signals, is warranted.

It is well known that infants and young children, whose brains are still developing, are significantly more at risk for damage; yet the standard does not take this fact into account.

Not surprising, health care professionals, as well as scientists, have expressed their concern about the health risks related to wireless technology. The American Academy of Environmental Medicine (AAEM), a group of physicians whose expertise is environmental medicine, has taken a strong stand against smart meters.

<http://aaemonline.org/pressadvisoryemf.pdf>

The fact that many people have reported health problems with smart meters (with amazingly similar symptoms, many of which suggest heart and/or neurological involvement that began immediately after their smart meters were installed) is yet another indication that current safety standards may not be strict enough.

I am not suggesting that wireless technology be banned.

I am asking that:

- \* healthy guidelines be set, based on independent studies, in real life situations,
- \* the risks are thoroughly examined before involuntarily increasing entire populations to more wireless technology (such as smart meters)
- \* the health risks are made public (such as warning labels, when warranted),
- \* Stricter standards are set for companies whose policies affect entire populations (smart meters), or companies whose products affect children (baby monitors): and
- \* Higher “temporary” standards be adopted until reliable research is available to set healthy standards.

Updated standards need to take into account:

- \* the fact that each of us is exposed to multiple sources,
- \* the wireless industry is rapidly growing, and the number of exposures will increase exponentially in the future,
- \* pulsating signals result in short, but extremely high exposures, and may be extremely harmful, especially to children. (“averaging” the strength of signals is not an acceptable way of determining the relative safety of a device. The highest signal strength needs to be proven safe)
- \* infants and children are more susceptible to harm because their nervous systems are just developing,
- \* intersecting RF waves create “hot spots,” increasing the potential harm;
- \* laboratory studies are not sufficient in determining safety; devices need to be studied in real life situations; and
- \* safety standards need to be based on biological effects from independent research, not on industry funded research.